

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 PC-10 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 IGA-02

PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7844

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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DEPT PASS USDOC AND USDA

LAGOS PASS MAJOR CEREALS TEAM

MONROVIA FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, OVIP, EAGR, EGEN, IV

SUBJECT: GOIC REQUEST FOR AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE: VISIT TO US
OF MINAG

REF: A) STATE 221486; B) STATE 42087

1. SOYBEANS. GOIC MINAG SAWADOGO CONVOKED DCM (SINCE I HAVE NOT
YET PRESENTED CREDENTIALS) TO DISCUSS FOLLOWUP TO PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET
BOIGNY'S REQUEST FOR AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE.

A. RECALLING SECRETARY BUTZ'S INVITATION TO MINAG TO VISIT US IN
SPRING (REFTEL A), SAWADOGO SAID HE PLANS TO GO TO US IN APRIL TO DRA
W

UP DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SOYBEAN PRODUC-
TION IN IVORY COAST. MINISTER WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY TEAM OF GOIC
AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS AND MEET WITH REPS OF APPROPRIATE USG AGENCIES

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AND UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS (AID CONTRACTOR) SOYBEAN EXPERTS. MINISTER

EMPHASIZED THAT HE WOULD STAY IN US "AS LONG AS NECESSARY - 2 OR 3 DAYS OR A MONTH" BECAUSE HOUHPOUET BOIGNY WANTS TO START AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE AN EFFECTIVE SOYBEAN CULTIVATION PROGRAM; PRESIDENT RECENTLY FINISHED "TRIUMPHAL" TOUR OF NORTH AND PROMISED GOVERNMENT ACTION TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, INCLUDING INTRODUCTION OF SOYBEANS.

B. DEPT WILL RECALL (REFTEL B) THAT SECRETARY BUTZ TOLD ME THAT USDA WAS PREPARED TO HELP IVORY COAST WITHIN LIMITS OF USDA'S MEANS, IN SOYBEAN PRODUCTION. ALSO, DR. ADAMS AND FERMINO SPENCER SAID THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER MODEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IVORY COAST IN THIS AREA. IN PARTICULAR, AID WOULD BE PREPARED TO REQUEST SERVICES OF A SOYBEAN AGRONOMIST WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS FOR A SHORT PERIOD AND ASSIST IN ARRANGING CONTACTS BETWEEN THE GOIC AND POTENTIAL US CONTRACTORS TO IMPLEMENT SUCH A PROJECT. PEACE CORPS ALSO SAW POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATING IN THIS PROGRAM.

C. REGARDING FINANCING, MINISTER SAWADOGO WILL ASK WHAT ASSISTANCE USG CAN PROVIDE IN IMPLEMENTING SOYBEAN PROGRAM. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED GOIC IS WILLING ITSELF TO ENGAGE PRIVATE CONTRACTORS TO ASSURE SPEEDY AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION.

D. MINISTER STATED GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SOYBEAN EXPERTS AT MAJOR CEREALS PROJECT IN IBADAN, NIGERIA AND EXPECTS VISIT OF EXPERTS TO IVORY COAST IN JUNE. HE HOPES SOYBEAN EXPERT FROM UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CAN ALSO COME TO IVORY COAST AT THAT TIME. MINISTER WILL ALSO DISCUSS WITH UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS POSSIBILITY OF ENROLLING IVORIAN STUDENTS NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR TO PURSUE STUDIES RELATED TO SOYBEAN CULTIVATION.

2. CORN. SAWADOGO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BROACH PROBLEM OF HOW TO DRY AND STORE CORN IN AREAS WITH CONTINUOUS HIGH TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY.

GOIC BELIEVES THAT ITS CORN RESEARCH PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTED BY MATERIAL FROM IBADAN CENTER IS SUFFICIENT QUALITY THAT NO US ASSISTANCE IN THIS

AREA IS REQUIRED.

3. COFFEE. AS PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN COFFEE PRODUCING COUNTRIES ASSOCIATION, SAWADOGO HAS BEEN ASKED TO TAKE SOUNDINGS IN CONSUMING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRIES REGARDING THEIR POSITIONS TOWARDS NEW INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT. THEREFORE, HE HOPES DURING COURSE OF VISIT TO MEET WITH DEPASSTSECY JULIUS KATZ AND OTHERS TO DISCUSS USG POSITION. HE RECOGNIZES TIMING MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE AND WOULD BE WILLING, IF NECESSARY, TO DEFER DISCUSSIONS UNTIL LATER DATE, E.G. MAY-JUNE. MIN SAID HOWEVER, HE WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH USG BEFORE USG POSITION BECAME FINAL.

4. AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT. SAWADOGO ADDED THAT WHIL IN US HE PLANS TO PLACE DOLS 5 MILLION WORTH OF ORDERS FOR AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT, PRIMARILY EARTH MOVING MACHINERY FOR LAND CLEARING AND SMALL DAM CONSTRUCTION. LOCAL REPS OF US FIRMS SUPPLYING SUCH EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED. SAWADOGO SAID NO LOAN IS REQUIRED; "WE'LL PAY CASH."

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THAT MINISTER'S REQUEST PROVIDES SHORT LEAD TIME TO SCHEDULE APPROPRIATE PROGRAM. HOWEVER, SAWADOGO IS OBVIOUSLY UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM PRESIDENT BOIGNY TO PRODUCE SOUND SOYBEAN PROGRAM ASAP, THEREBY DEMONSTRATING TO PEOPLE OF NORTHERN REGION THAT PRESIDENT IS KEEPING HIS PROMISES TO THEM. SINCE GOIC IS APPARENTLY WILLING TO PICK UP MOST OF THE BILL FOR THE PROJECT, I URGE THAT DEPT. AND OTHER AGENCIES MAKE STRONG EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE MINISTER'S REQUEST.
SMITH

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